

The Daily Herald

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News: If you have a news tip, call the city news desk. If you have a complaint or suggestion, call managing editor Earl Biederman at extension 271, or publisher Kirk Parkinson at extension 244. Our fax number for press releases or letters is 373-5489

Advertising: To place a want ad, call 373-6450. Operators are available 8:30 to 5:30 weekdays and from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays. For retail display or commercial classified, call 373-5050. Our fax number for advertising copy is 373-5489.

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By KEVIN NIENDORF

Herald Staff Writer

Provo resident Don Martin will never forget the night the voice on the other end of the telephone asked him for \$5,000 cash in exchange for the release of his kidnapped daughter.

Nine days earlier, as the Martins had just begun their annual Fall vacation to Coronado, Calif., little Maria was kidnapped.

It was 10 years ago this month Maria was released to Martin and 18 hidden officers from the Coronado Police Department, during the planned exchange at a remote site near an old ferry-boat pier.

(See KIDNAP, Page A2)



Maria Martin, a freshman kidnapped 10 years ago in Southern California. Her inside a wooden box for nine days. She now thinks about the incident very little.

Sales of existing homes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of existing homes slumped 6.7 percent in July after rising to a 2½-year high a month earlier, a real estate trade group said today.

The drop, which was concentrated in the South, followed five consecutive monthly increases and was not viewed with particular alarm, the National Association of Realtors said.

Sales of single-family totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.35 million, down from 3.59 million in June. It compared with increases of 1.4 percent in June and 6.9 percent in May. Still, the

July total was 0.9 percent higher than a year ago.

"The market is holding strong," said Harley E. Rouda, president of the group. "Buyers flocked to the market (in May and June), causing sales to jump. However, sales spurts cannot last indefinitely. Now that some pent-up demand has been filled, the market is easing back into a more stable course of growth."

Long-term fixed mortgage rates, as measured by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., ticked down slightly during the month to an average 9.58 per-

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